

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 CU-02 DHA-02  
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R 221436Z APR 77  
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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1029

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, CZ  
SUBJECT: CZECHOSLOVAK-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY: RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND CSSR ARE AGAIN STRAINED. THE VISIT CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER STROUGAL WAS TO HAVE PAID TO VIENNA THIS SPRING NOW APPEARS POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. CZECHOSLOVAKS HAVE LODGED STRONGLY-WORDED PROTEST AGAINST RALLY OF SUDETEN GERMANS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29-30, CHARGING THAT FOR AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT TO SANCTION IT VIOLATES AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY, CONSTITUTION OF AUSTRIA, AND THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. AUSTRIANS HAVE DEFENDED THEMSELVES FORTHRIGHTLY STATING THAT AUSTRIA'S NEUTRALITY IS MILITARY, BUT NOT IDEOLOGICAL, AND THAT PRAGUE'S CRITICISMS CONSTITUTE UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN AUSTRIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING THE VISIT HE WAS TO HAVE PAID TO VIENNA THIS SPRING (IN RETURN FOR KRIESKY'S VISIT TO PRAGUE IN EARLY 1976), CZECHOSLOVAK PREMIER LUBOMIR STROUGAL WAS TO HAVE SIGNED TWO AGREEMENTS ON BORDER CROSSINGS AND VISA FACILITATION, AND TO HAVE INITIALED A CULTURAL EXCHANGES AGREEMENT. THE CZECHS HAVE RETREATED FROM GOING THROUGH WITH THE VISIT BECAUSE CHANCELLOR KRIESKY SIGNED AN AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PETITION SUPPORTING CHARTER 77.

3. KRIESKY'S OUTSPOKE SUPPORT OF THE CHARTER 77 DISSIDENTS, WHICH INCLUDED AN OFFER TO GRANT ASYLUM TO SEVERAL OF THEM HAD EARLIER PUT STROUGAL VISIT IN QUESTION, BUT GOC HAD WANTED IT TO TAKE PLACE. THE OVERRIDING POINT OF CONTENTION, HOWEVER, WAS RAISED BY THE RALLY OF SUDETEN GERMANS PLANNED FOR MAY 29-30 IN VIENNA. GOC HANDED A PROTEST TO AUSTRIAN CHARGE APRIL 14, AMIDST PRESS ATTACKS CLAIMING THAT TO ALLOW RALLY TO TAKE PLACE IN AUSTRIA WOULD CONSTITUTE VIOLATION OF AUSTRIAN STATE TREATY, CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF AUSTRIA AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT. CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS TO AUSTRIAN CHARGE ORIGINALLY CONTAINED ADDITIONAL ALLEGATION THAT RALLY WOULD VIOLATE FRG-CSSR TREATY, BUT THIS ACCUSATION HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN AND PRESENT STRESS IS ON CHARGE THAT AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY WILL BE SULLIED. IN ADDITION TO FOREIGN MINISTER PAHR'S REFUTATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK ALLEGATIONS IN HIS APRIL 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR PASCH DELIVERED NOTE APRIL 20 CATEGORICALLY REJECTING CZECH CHARGES.

4. GOC NOTE AND ASSOCIATED ORAL STATEMENT SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRIAN ACTION MIGHT DAMAGE NOT ONLY VIENNA'S RELATIONS WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA BUT ALSO WITH "OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AND MIGHT "HINDER DEVELOPMENT OF PEACE" IN CENTRAL EUROPE. AUSTRIANS ARE, HOWEVER, SATISFIED BY THE LEVEL OF COOPERATION THEY HAVE BEEN GETTING FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S POLISH AND HUNGARIAN ALLIES AND ARE NOT, BY THEIR OWN ACCOUNT, INTIMATED BY CZECHOSLOVAK THREATS. IN FACT, AUSTRIANS TELL US THEY HAVE FIRMLY POINTED OUT TO MFA HERE THAT AUSTRIAN NEUTRALITY IS "MILITARY BUT NOT IDEOLOGICAL."

5. WE NOW UNDERSTAND AUSTRIANS PLAN TO COUNTER FUTURE CZECHOSLOVAK  
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ATTACKS WITH THE SIMPLE ARGUMENTS CZECHS THEMSELVES RELY ON--  
NAMELY, "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

6. COMMENT: GOC IS ONCE MORE STUCK BETWEEN ITS DIPLOMATIC AND IDEOLOGICAL AIMS. A BASIC DIPLOMATIC AIM IS TO DEMONSTRATE RESPECTABILITY AND BUSINESS-AS-USUAL WITH THE WEST THROUGH A SERIES OF EXCHANGES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITS. ON THE IDEOLOGICAL SIDE, HOWEVER, THE AIM IS TO USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE WEST ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND TO TAR AUSTRIA, AND THE FRG, WITH ACCUSATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR FACISTS AND REVANCHISTS." THE LONGER THE GOC DELAYS ON THE STROUGAL VISIT THE MORE LEVERAGE ON THE AUSTRIANS IT LOSES FROM THE BORDER-CROSSING AGREEMENTS. THE AUSTRIANS BADLY WANT THE TWO NEW CROSSINGS FOR THEIR TIR TRUCK TRAFFIC, BUT THEY ALSO KNOW THAT ONCE THE AGREEMENTS ARE SIGNED, TWO FULL SUMMERS OF CONSTRUCTION WILL BE NEEDED TO OPEN THE CROSSINGS TO HEAVY TRUCKS. THE LEAD TIME ON STARTING CONSTRUCTION AND THE SHORT SEASON IN THE LOCALES OF THE CROSSINGS MEANS THAT IT IS PROBABLY ALREADY TOO LATE THIS YEAR TO START CONSTRUCTION. AUSTRIANS THUS ARE PROBABLY READY TO WAIT UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR

TO SIGN AGREEMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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